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AGRICULTURE

Ukraine's Chronic Weaknesses Criticized: The creaky Ukrainian agricultural machine is given another boost in the form of a special decision by the Party's Central Committee (4 June) to clear up the existing mess and stick closer to the plan. The gravity of the agricultural situation is given further emphasis in another decision of 7 June and also, indirectly, in a letter to Stalin (11 June) from all the sugar cane growers of the Ukraine. As broadcast from Tbilisi (4 June), the decision of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party begins with the admission that

as a result of the irresponsible attitude towards the fight against the sugar beet pest, sugar beet losses have been sustained in Kiev, Poltava and Kirovograd oblasts. Particularly great beet losses have occurred in the collective farms of Kiev oblast.

Ukrainian version:

V rezultati bezvidpovidal'nogo stavlennya do provedennya borotby z buryakovim dovgonosikom u bagatyokh rayonakh Kievskoy, Poltavskoy i Kirovogradskoy oblasti dopushchena zagibel posiviv tsukrovyykh buryakiv. Osoblyvo velika zagibel tsukrovyykh buryakiv dopushchena v kolgospakh Kievskoy oblasti.

Next on the list of weak agricultural spots is the procurement of sufficient fodder which, as indicated later in the report, has been neglected to such an extent as to require another session of the Central Party Committee. The latter also stresses the fact that most of the shortcomings listed in its decisions are chronic, some of them dating back to 1950 and earlier, and that it is therefore time to put an end to them "once and for all" (raz i navzashchy). Continued also, according to the Central Committee, is the nefarious practice of "pilfering and squandering of communal property, giving away or selling for 'a song' produce, cattle and fodder to various individuals" (roztaskuvannya i rozbazaryuvannya gronadskogo maina, bezplatnym випуском і продажем за безцінок чужим особам продуктів, худоби і кормів).

Referring to special areas of poor agricultural performance, the decision points out that Polesiye, for example, continues to be backward in every aspect of agriculture because the oblast authorities "have done mighty little" (dazte malo зробyli) to implement the necessary measures to improve the work of the collective and state farms. Unspecified grain losses (vtrata zerna) are said to have been incurred by the collective and state farms of Chernigov, Sumy, Stanislaw and Lvov oblasts because threshing has been delayed and plans remained unfulfilled. In Zaporozhye, Kirovograd, Vinnytsa and other oblasts there is no visible improvement over last year when the corn crop was a failure. Instances of "short-weighting and cheating the grain deliverers" (obvazhuвання і обрakhovування з/ваваиькив) have been noted in Ternopol and Nikolayev oblasts while the "theft of state grain" (Rozkradannya derzhavnogo khliba) is taking place in Odessa and Lvov oblasts.

Referring to last year, the 26-point decision points out that responsibility for the agricultural shortcomings must be borne by the Party organizations as well as by the Ministries concerned. The record of the Ministries of Agriculture, Cotton, Collective and State farms, while satisfactory on the whole, is said to have been rather spotty in a number of areas and products. Thus the sugar beet crop was below expectations in a number of southern oblasts, flax and hemp deliveries in Belorussia fell short of the plan and the potato and vegetable crops were poor because of inadequate maintenance.

A joint decision issued by the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Party and the Council of Ministers on 7 June deals exclusively with the maintenance, preparations and harvesting of fodder crops. Urging immediate and concentrated attention on this branch of agriculture, the decision warns against a repetition of the disappointing performance of last year when

due to the unsatisfactory organization of labor in the collective and state farms, many of them failed to secure sufficient quantities of fodder for the livestock to last through the winter of 1951-1952.

Ukrainian version

cherez nezadovolnu organizatsiu robot v kolgospakh i radgospakh bagato z nikh ne zabezpechili na zymivlyu 1951-1952 roku grumadske pogolivya khudoby dostatnoyu kilkistyu kormiv.

Admitting that much of the fodder shortage last year was attributable to losses incurred by the failure to transport and store the fodder in suitable places, the Party has now decided to offer additional pay to truck drivers and horse-drawn cart operators as an inducement to greater efficiency. Fifty kopecks will henceforth be paid for every ton of silaged fodder over and above the prescribed daily quota.

A long letter to Stalin from all the sugar-cane growers of the Ukrainian SSR carried by PRAVDA and RADIANSKA UKRAINA on 11 June dwells in detail on the bright prospects for a bumper sugar-cane crop. The Ukrainian farmers conventionally list the specific amounts of cane to be harvested by every oblast, rayon, collective farm and even brigade, but preface their pledge to the leader with an apology for last year's sins.

We realize that the huge resources and possibilities for raising the sugar cane yield have not yet been utilized in many collective and state farms of the Republic. The kolkhozes of Kiev, Poltava and Kirovograd oblasts failed to fulfill the harvest-yield and cane delivery plan in 1951--they gathered even a poorer harvest than in 1950.

Ukrainian version:

My usvidomlyemo, yaki veliki rezervo i mozliyvosti pidvyshchennya vrozhaïnosti tsukrovoykh buryakiv shcho ne vykorystani u bagatoykh kolgospakh i radgospakh respubliky. Kolgospy Kyivskoy, Poltavskoy i Kirovogradskoy oblastey... v 1951 rotsi ne vykonali plan vrozhaïnosti i adachi derzhavi tsukrovoykh buryakiv i navit ipoustyly znyzhennya vrozhayu porivnyano z 1950 rokom

Financial inducements to farmers and MIS workers for greater efforts are reported also from Kursk oblast (5 June) where the hay-procurement and fodder-silaging campaign, according to KURSKAYA PRAVDA, has all but failed. Thus MIS drivers engaged in transporting silage to the kolkhozes are to be paid an additional 50 kopecks for every ton of hay handled over and above the daily quota. The operators of horse-drawn hay-mowers will now receive an additional 20 kilograms of hay for every hectare over 40 mowed "before the beginning" of the grain-harvesting season. Other collective farm workers will get additional payments amounting to one tenth of the value of hay stacked.

CHERNOMORSKA KOMMUNA (10 June) pleads for an end to the "non-intervention policy" (politika nevmeshatstva) maintained by many Party and Agricultural officials in the matter of hay-procurement. This policy, the paper implies, is merely a continuation of the previous indifferent attitude toward the repairs of hay-mowing machinery. Since the oblast cannot afford to lose any more time, it is recommended that financial incentives be provided "wherever necessary" to encourage the kolkhozniks to accumulate fodder. One tenth of the stacked hay value "as well as a variety of other rewards" will be given to the collective farmers for "exemplary, above-schedule" labor.

Among the sources figuring in the "Letter-to-Stalin Department" in the period under review are the collective and state farmers of Belorussian SSR, Lithuanian SSR, the Crimea and Kalinin oblast. The familiarly-phrased letters are preceded by almost identical admissions of past failures. Thus the Belorussians claim (10 June) to be "mindful of the fact" (my sveznyom) that numerous collective farms and even entire rayons (dazhe tselie rayony) are still backward, are producing low harvests and failing to develop their livestock industry. What is worse, "agricultural statute violations have not yet been eliminated in certain collective farms" (v nekotorykh kolkhozakh eshe ne izzhity narushenia ustava selkhozarteli). The Lithuanian farmers' letter speaks of the "grave shortcomings" which have not yet been overcome: a poor harvest in some areas in 1951, and inadequate procurement of fodder and livestock maintenance now. The Crimeans admit (8 June) that many of their farms are still behind the harvest yield plan in regard to tobacco, fruit, grapes and vegetables.

Nor do they have any reason to boast about their cattle industry since the mentioned collective farms "are not yet struggling the way they should" (eshche ne boryutaya ponastoyashchemu) for greater progress in that branch of agriculture. Continued violations of the collective farm statute are admitted also in the letter from the Kalinin oblast farmers of 13 June.

The technical end of agricultural operations again claims official attention. PRAVDA (13 June) assails the local officials of the central oblasts who "are still infected with backward and harmful sentiments" (vse eshche sarazheny otstalymi i vrednymi nastroyeniami). Their reluctance to use combine harvesters in the central areas because they are allegedly impractical in that part of the country is referred to as inexcusable. That attitude, incidentally, is said to account for the fact that the repair and maintenance of these machines have been criminally neglected. The combine-repair situation is reported to be particularly serious in Kalinin and Ryazan oblasts as well as in Mordovian and Chuvash ASSR's where harvesting is just about to begin and only 20% to 30% of the available machines are in working condition. Only 6% of the Kirovograd oblast combines have so far been repaired. Rostov oblast and Moldavian SSR are also behind their repair schedules, although they are among the first to start harvesting operations.

The intensified last-minute drive for technical preparedness in agriculture is reflected in the numerous items broadcast from scattered areas of the USSR. Below are excerpts from some of them, arranged in chronological order:

Rostov, 3 June--The repair of hay-mowing machinery is being carried out extremely unsatisfactory...in Nikolayevskiy, Oblivskiy, Tsymlianskiy and Chernyshevskiy rayons. There can be no reconciliation of such a situation. (MOLOT editorial)

Simferopol, 3 June--Statistics published by the oblast Agricultural Administration show that...last year's mistakes have not been remembered. The delay in machinery repairs at that time slowed the harvesting. This applies now to the Golinskiy, Azovskiy, Lobanovskiy and Tavricheskiy machine-tractor stations. Little attention is paid to the repair of old trucks in Yevpatoriyskiy, Dzhankoy, Krasno-Perekopskiy and Kirovskiy rayons. (KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA)

Stavropol, 4 June--The serious mistakes of last year are being repeated in Dulizhevskiy, Nevinnomyssk, Kursavskiy and several other rayons: they failed to secure the timely completion of repairs to harvesting machinery (STAVROPOLSKAYA PRAVDA).

Orel, 8 June--Many machine-tractor stations and kolkhozes of the oblast are repeating last year's mistakes and delaying the repair of hay-mowers and silo cutters. Among them are the Ischeyevskaya, Stancovlanskaya, Ekaterinovskaya, Shakhovskaya, Vorovskaya, Alyabevskaya and Glazunovo stations. The kolkhozes of Mokhovskiy, Korsakovo, Droskovskiy and Telchinskiy rayons are lagging inadmissibly. (ORLOVSKAYA PRAVDA).

Stalingrad, 10 June--...yet in the oblast as a whole the situation in regard to the preparation of the principal harvesting machinery continues to be clearly unsatisfactory. (STALINGRADKAYA PRAVDA).

Alma Ata, 14 June--In most oblasts and rayons of the Republic there exist serious shortcomings in the preparations for harvesting, and primarily in the organization of machinery repairs. Further delay in the preparations...is intolerable. (KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA)

Georgian Agriculture Under Investigation: Despite the recent scrutinies and strictures by the highest Communist body of Georgian SSR about statute violations and other irregularities, it appears that the agricultural situation in the Republic still leaves much to be desired. A report from Tbilisi carried by PRAVDA on 14 June (not broadcast) tells of the latest session held by the Central Committee of the Georgian Communist Party to decide "on measures against the theft of public property in the collective farms" (o merakh borby s rastaskivaniem obshchestvennogo dobra v kolkhozakh). As discussed in previous CPW reports, such measures had already been suggested and adopted at the Tbilisi Party Conference last April and at the 19th Republican Komsomol Congress in May. This time, however, the situation appears to be more ominous for two reasons. First, unlike the previous Party sessions, the recent Central Committee meeting had been called for the sole purpose of discussing continuing agricultural violations, and that subject was the only one on its agenda. Secondly, there is implicit admission that the legal action taken against the violators is insufficient and that more stringent measures might be necessary. The nature of such measures, however, is not specified.

It is reported, for example, that collective farm lands are still being squandered and the kolkhoz statute "crudely violated" (grubo narushayetsia) in Domaninskiy, Mayakovskiy, Dzhavaskoy, Makharadzevskiy, Kobuletskiy, Khuloyskiy, Tskhakayevskiy, Marneulskiy and certain other rayons. It is also reported that several special commissions, each headed by a member of the Central Party Committee, were appointed to unearth all the necessary evidence of property theft and other violations. One of the revelations made at the Plenary Session is that a number of rayon Party officials "have abused their official status" (zloupotrebliali svoim sluzhebnyim polozheniem), and are just as deeply involved in the shady machinations as their non-partisan comrades. Some rayon committee secretaries, it is announced, have been expelled from the Party and turned over to the prosecuting authorities for having used State funds and kolkhoz labor to build houses for themselves.

The duties of the above-mentioned commissions, it appears, are not only to investigate and fight abuses in agriculture--they are also to reclaim the properties already stolen, since, as the report further points out, the prosecuting authorities themselves have not displayed too much zeal in the matter of adjudicating collective farm claims. Although some of the squandered properties are reported to have been returned to their rightful owners, it is hinted that a great deal more is yet to be reclaimed:

During April-May of this year the collective farms got back over 3,000 hectares of stolen land and about 1,500 tons of grain as well as 31,000 illegally paid working days. The collective farms collected 41,200,000 rubles, or almost half of the outstanding debts, from various individuals and organizations.

Russian version:

V tehnie aprelya-maya tekushchego goda kolkhozam vozvrashcheno svyshe trekh tysyach gektarov raskhishchennykh zemel, okolo 1,500 tonn zerna, spisana 31,000 nezakonno zachislennykh trudodney. Kolkhozy poluchili 41,200,000 rubley--pochti polovinu debitorskoy zadolzhennosti, chislivsheysya za raznymi litsami i organizatsiyami.

Referring to the legal action taken against the perpetrators up to the present, the Central Committee Session pointed out that the prosecuting authorities and the courts of the Republic are derelict in their duties. There is no proper supervision over the observance of the collective farm statute, and all the investigations of statute violations are unduly protracted. Curiously enough, there is no indication of the "new measures" adopted by the session against the prevailing crimes beyond the terse announcement that the meeting came to a close following the adoption of "sweeping decisions" (razvernutoye reshenie).

Tighter Control of Uzbek Agriculture Urged: PRAVDA VOSTOKA (Tashkent in Russian, 11 June) carries a report of the 11th Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Uzbek Communist Party. The first of the two items on the Session's agenda calls for "measures to be taken to liquidate violations of the kolkhoz code." The Session is reported to have established that the control over the observance of the agricultural statute in the Republic "is still weak", and that large-scale squandering of kolkhoz property is still going on. Familiarly blaming the farmers' un-Bolshevik attitude toward communal property on lack of political education, the Central Committee also appears to be alive to the fact that "certain Party and Soviet officials" are not entirely blameless themselves in the respect. They seem to take thievery for granted, considering all complaints about it as superfluous:

They have reconciled themselves with the infringements of the kolkhoz code and are failing to attend to the complaints of the kolkhoz workers. They are failing to fulfill the demands of the Party and government to treat the squanders of kolkhoz lands and property as the enemies of the collective farm system. They are even abusing their official positions...in squandering kolkhoz property.

The extent of the mentioned malpractices may be gathered from the fact that no mention is made in the report of any particular officials or specific areas, while "the Republic as a whole" (v tselom po respublike) is repeatedly referred to in the Session's criticism.

PARTY ACTIVITIES

Uzbek SSR's Party activities, just like its agriculture, also claim official attention. Discussing the meager publicity given to Party life in the regional press, PRAVDA (5 June) points to that Republic as an example not to be emulated. The main Republican newspaper, PRAVDA VOSTOKA is not devoting sufficient attention or space to Party affairs. Nor do the other two (unnamed) Republican papers. The little publicity that does occasionally appear in these papers is said to sound too much like routine reporting. This, it is claimed, is utterly inadequate since the regional press represents "the chief link" between the Party and the masses. What makes the situation in Uzbekistan appear worse than in other areas which, incidentally, are also criticized for lack of proper control of the press, is that the Central Committee of the Uzbek Party "is aware of the unsound state of affairs" (znayet o neblagopoluchnom polozhenii) but has so far done nothing to improve it.

In Kazakhstan, a large number of regional dailies are said to "have lost sight" of the most urgent problems of party life: many of them have not even opened special "Party Life" sections as is customary throughout the country. Even the two Republican theoretical periodicals BOLSHEVIK KAZAKHSTANA and KOMMUNIST have in the past six months failed to publish anything that might be of some help to propagandists or independent students engaged in political self-education. Among the other regional paper said to be in need of "a thoroughgoing improvement" (rezkoye uluchshenie) in their handling of Party publicity are DNEPROVSKAYA PRAVDA, STAVROPOLSKAYA PRAVDA, VOLZHSKAYA KOMMUNA and a number of unnamed others. PRAVDA reiterates that the mentioned thoroughgoing improvement applies equally to the amount and type of publicity since the Party and its activities deserve more serious attention than they have been getting: "Articles on Party themes are sometimes little different... from materials on production themes" (Izogda stat'i na partiynie temy... malo chem otlichayutsia ot materialov na proizvodstvennie temy).

Party leadership of the local press, that is wall newspapers (stinni gazety), is discussed by RADYANSKA UKRAINA on 11 June. This important section of the Republic's press, says the paper, has been neglected all too often. The primary Party organizations whose duty it is to supervise such publications take so little interest in them that they are not even aware of the disappearance of some of them from the wall. The editorial condemns as highly reprehensible the peculiar reaction of some officials and workers to the criticism of their performance contained in the wall papers: "they simply tear them off the walls so that no one would read them." The same paper (13 June) complains that lecture propaganda in Ternopol, Lvov and a number of other oblasts is still maintained at a low political level, such talks often being delivered by ignorant "pot boilers" (khalturnyki). KIROVOGRADSKA PRAVDA (7 June) bemoans the fact that "too few" (duzhe malo) lectures are given by the Communist on such topics as Soviet patriotism, Lenin-Stalin friendship of peoples and the Ukrainian bourgeois nationalists.

RADYANSKA UKRAINA (13 June) assails the reluctance of the rayon Party organizations -- in Ternopol, Lvov and "a number" of other oblasts -- to pay more attention to lecture propaganda. Their attitude toward the whole business of lecture propaganda, the paper claims, is that of a plant manager toward production:

Some Party leaders still consider that the leadership of lecturing propaganda can be reduced to a collection of figures concerning the number of lectures read without serious consideration of their contents. Such a practice is completely impermissible!

Criticized also is the Party officials' faulty logic of assigning full responsibility for lecturing propaganda to the Society for the Propagation of Political and Scientific Knowledge while limiting their own functions to general supervision. Such reasoning, the paper reiterates, is unworthy of true Bolshevik leadership. The latter must always bear in mind that political education is an important Party function and supervision over it must never be relaxed.

Education For Children: In a review of the children's newspaper YUNYI LENINETS broadcast from Kiev on 14 June, the school children are told that the arrest of Jacques Duclos and Andre Stil has "stirred up all of France." These arrests, the youngsters are informed, were timed to coincide with the arrival in France of Gen. Ridgway, the "black-death general" and "executioner" of the Korean people who employed bacterial weapons against them. The review ends with the announcement that the campaign against "Communist and other democratic" organi-

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zations has induced the "justified wrath" of the French workers, and protest meetings and strikes are held throughout the country. Hundreds of messages arriving daily in Paris are said to bring "demands from the workers of the world" that Jacques Duclos and Andre Stil be released.

MISCELLANEOUS

As reported from Zhitomir on 14 June, the Oblast Blood Transfusion Station offers "sizable cash rewards" to blood donors. The latter will also be granted leave and provided with food on the day they give their blood.

A report from Astrakhan (13 June) says that a "concentrated broth" prepared from the liquid waste products of the fish industry makes a valuable feed for livestock. Produced according to scientist Solonchev's formula, this broth "is also used for growing penicillin moulds and other micro-organisms" for medicinal purposes. The mass production of concentrated broth will begin in the near future.